(a) whether it is a fact that lot of mineral resources are available in the continental shelf/territorial water;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted to assess the potential; and

(c) the steps being taken to exploit these mineral resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that a lot of non-living mineral resources are available in our continental shelf/territorial waters. In addition to poly-metallic manganese nodules, occurrences of oil and placer sands are also reported from the off-sore region. Geological Survey of India(GSI), a subordinate Department under Ministry of Mines and National Institute of Oceanography(NIO), Goa have carried out surveys within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). They have assessed the potential for heavy mineral sands, oolites and calcareous sands, high grade of lime mud deposits, phosphatised sediments, etc.

(c) Oil and gas are being produced from off-shore regions since long. No commercial exploitation is known for poly-metallic nodules and placer sand at present. To provide for development and regulation of mineral resources in the territorial waters, continental shelf, EEZ and other maritime zones of India and to provide for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto, Central Government has enacted the legislation namely 'The Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002'. This Act is yet to come into force.

Minerals exploration by Geological Survey of India

†2113. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in Chhattisgarh where mineral exploration has been carried out by Geological Survey of India during the last three years stating names of the minerals explored in each area;

(b) the number of units of the Geological Survey of India engaged in exploration of minerals in the State;

(c) whether the number of employees working in the State is sufficient where minerals are in abundance, in comparison with other States; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government would consider to increase the staff strength of GSI engaged in Chhattisgarh and to increase budget provision for GSI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Geological Survey of India has been carrying out mineral exploration in many areas in the State of Chhattisgarh during the last three years. The minerals explored in the State are gold, diamond, Platinum Group of Elements (PGE) and coal. The area-wise details of these minerals are as below:—

Mineral	Areas
Gold	Parvelli, Kumarkatta, Gurpher Sheetalpur, Bhelwapani, Bejhar, Chachar and Puromichgaon blocks of BIF Belt (Southern part), Kanker District. Sonakhan granite-greenstone belt and Baghmara block, Sonakhan area, Mahasamund District. Tumrisur-Garda-Bhuski area, west of Hahaladi Donger, Kanker District.
Diamond	Northern and North-western parts of Indravati Basin and adjoining crystallines, Bastar District. Sarangarh-Chandrapur sectors in parts of Baradwar Sub-basinal area and South Raigarh crystalline belt, Raigarh and Janjgir-Champa Districts. Sarangarh and Saraipalli area, Mahasamund and Raigarh Districts. Kanker and Bisrampuri area, Kanker District.
PGE	Sonakhan granite-greenstone belt, Mahasamund District.
Coal	Barpali-Karmitikra sector, Mand-Raigarh Coalfield, Korba District. Jharpalam-Tangarghat block, Mand-Raigarh Coalfield, Raigarh District. Saila block, Korba Coalfield, Korba District. Garhauli block, Tatapani-Ramkola coalfield, Surguja District. Barpali-Karmitikra(west) Sector, Mand-Raigarh coalfield, Korba District. Pendrakhi sector, Hasdo-Arand coalfield, Surguja District. Kesarchuan-Lamdard block, Mand-Raigarh coalfield, Raigarh District. Hasdo-Arand coalfield, Surguja District.

(b) A total number of 31 Units (field parties consisting of two geologists) remained engaged in exploration work during the last three years.

(c) Yes, Sir. The number of employees working in the State of Chhattisgarh, are sufficient to take up the present assignment under execution compared to other States.

(d) Yes, Sir. Based on the functional requirement, the staff strength can be increased and the increased budget allocation can also be earmarked.

All India Whips' Conference

2114. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations of All India Whips' Conference held so far;

(b) how many of them have been implemented and how many are pending and since when;

(c) the effective mechanism available to take follow up action;

(d) whether it would be considered adequate; and

(e) if not, how an effective device can be conceived and carried out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) The information will be laid on Table of the House.

(c) to (e) The recommendations of All India Whips' Conferences are recommendatory in nature and are implemented only if they are accepted by the Parliament/State Legislatures and/or by the Government at the Centre/States. The Union Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs follows up with the concerned State Governments and other authorities for implementation of these recommendations and this is a continuous process. The 11th and 12th Whips' Conferences had recommended setting up of a Monitoring Group to monitor the implementation of their recommendations. The Report of the Monitoring Group of the 12th Whips' Conference was circulated in the 13th Whips' Conference. The Conference recommended that Whips' Conferences should be organised on an annual basis so that the recommendations of previous Conferences could be pursued.